



# Roseburg Rescue Mission

*A Beacon of Hope  
for the Homeless*

**48** *Years*  
1964-2012

AUGUST 2012

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## Homeless To Harvard

Chenelle entered the Mission hobbling on a broken foot and stumbling in life. Today she has physically mended and is soaring with new hope like never before. She is pictured here graduating from Umpqua Community College with honors. And she has received a letter of acceptance to the prestigious, Ivy League school, Harvard University. She had the ability, she just needed the right environment to give her the opportunity.

Circumstances were never entirely stable for her, and they were degrading. One day a dysfunctional and abusive living situation sent Chenelle running from her home in fear. Yet, she was not ready to sever relationships, not emotionally or financially ready for independence. She went to her special place, the garden, to take her frustration out working there. Still she was not safe there either. She was chased yet again, this time tripping in a hole, literally breaking her ankle. She returned with a cast on her foot more vulnerable than before. There was no one to believe her, no place to go and no relief in sight. She said, "I was scared out of my mind at the preconceived stereotypes of what homeless women were like." But when enough was enough, even the misconceived fear of a homeless shelter was a welcomed and much appreciated alternative. Her life had forever changed, her identity was developing anew. She sat quiet, not really listening, feeling punished. Weeks went by. School was the only thing, she said, that kept her sane. So she poured herself into her studies.

Joy and laughter began to return to Chenelle during the Christmas season at the Mission's Samaritan Inn. Children laughed and played. They sang carols and decorated. A rather bubbly, yet cautioned, personality began reemerging in her. Confidence was returning, helped greatly by achieving success at school and being encouraged here. Chenelle was a student senator at UCC

and took law classes. She had made such friends here that they role-played mock trials, pretending to be defendants, plaintiffs etc. It was fun and educational. Homeless women, that she thought she would be afraid to be around or become one herself, had become a part of her success both personally and academically.

A spiritual awakening was also developing, a renewal of her relationship with Jesus, started as a child. Chenelle said, "I have had the best walk with God since I got here. My mom went to church and would take me with her. But, I never really took the

time to read the Bible. Church had been a negative experience. If I did something wrong, we would go to church; it was like a punishment. At first, I didn't listen at the Mission either, because I thought I was being punished." She thought that having to go to the Mission and its church-like services were that same kind of disciplinary action. But after a few weeks, she realized that her conviction was one of truth not condemnation. Chenelle had been set free. She said, I drew closer to God, reading the Bible, talking and praying to God. He was telling me where to go and what to do next, whereas before I couldn't even hear what He was saying."

Chenelle set her goals high, maybe wanting to prove her worthiness. Now in her mid-twenties, she had worked a few years and toyed with community college, then was devastated by becoming homeless. She said, "I've been looking at Harvard for a long time. I never thought that I would ever get in." She has been accepted and is working on getting scholarships with a fiery determination. We have verified her student status at Harvard; although, she still has some nontraditional student requirements and costs to meet.

She said, "The Mission is the best place I have been able to live throughout my life. I am really grateful to be here."



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# School Supplies Needed

- Children's Backpacks
- Over the Shoulder Bags
- Zippered Pencil Pouches
- Flash Thumb Drives
- 8-10 oz Hand Sanitizer
- Hand-held Pencil Sharpener
- #2 Ticonderoga Pencils
- Pencil Top Erasers
- Spiral Bound Grid Paper
- Notebook Paper College Rule
- Spiral Notebooks Wide Rule
- Composition Notebooks
- 3-Ring Tab Dividers
- Scientific Calculators
- Certificates For Shoes
- Facial Tissue
- Fiskar Scissors
- Protractor
- Rulers
- Highlighters
- Erasers
- Colored Pencils
- Glue Sticks
- Color Crayons
- Black & Red Pens
- 2" Binders
- Felt Markers

## BASIC SERVICES

- For men, women and children
- Food:** 3 meals every day
  - Clothing:** Available to all
  - Recovery Program:** ..... 20
  - Transitional Housing:** ..... 36
  - Client Shelter:** ..... 120
  - Emergency Shelter:** ..... 24
  - Total Beds Available:** ..... 200
  - Dayrooms:** Open all day  
Laundry, showers, phone, etc.
  - Thrift Stores:** Items vouchered to those in need, sold to others
  - Chapel:** A part of our daily lives.

# Equipping For Success

River (6) and Ruby (4), brother and sister, are sporting new backpacks loaded with school supplies. They are equipped for first grade and kindergarten respectfully. Going to school with new supplies and wearing nice clothes will make them more eager to get on the bus. Homeless children often have some reluctance about going to school, especially if it means appearing to be poor. They have enough of a disadvantage dealing with other issues to also have to deal with teasing or bullying by their peers regarding appearance. Equipping them with necessary supplies puts them on a level playing field with their peers and encourages them to overcome the pressures of school and moving around.

While staying at Samaritan Inn, school age children are required to be in school, when it is in session. The school bus arrives each morning and afternoon, taking children to and from the school they were enrolled in before moving here. Not having to change schools reduces some of the trauma of being homeless.

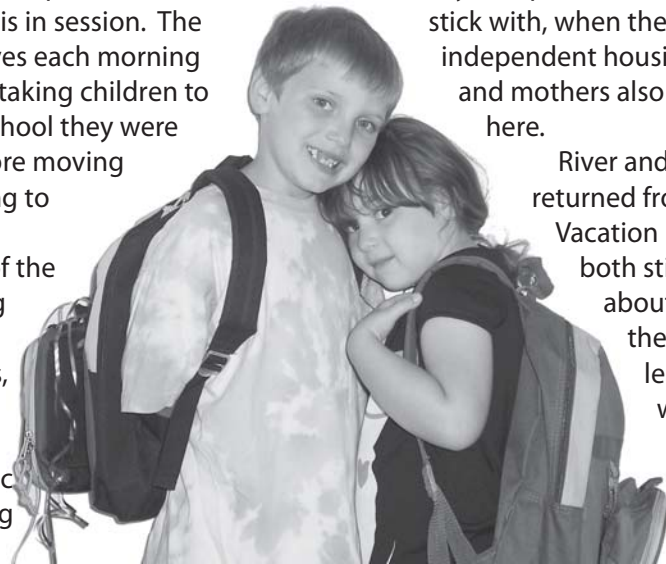
Often times, mothers and children are fleeing domestic violence, leaving in a hurry with

little baggage and no school supplies. Many homeless children have never had a new backpack, supplies or anything with a new tag on it. They come to us, not just at the beginning of the school year, but all throughout the year as trouble strikes their lives. The need is ongoing.

Somethings change. Over-the-shoulder bags seem more the style this year, at least for some of the older students. And this year the school provided supply list includes flash thumb drives for middle schoolers.

Somethings do not change. Samaritan Inn is a stable living environment. Having family and home is definitely equipping for success. Here the school day routine includes: wake-up, roll call, breakfast, bus out front, homework, dinner, chapel, lights out. Its a very friendly discipline, that mothers often stick with, when they move to independent housing. Children and mothers also make friends here.

River and Ruby had just returned from a day at Vacation Bible School, both still singing songs about the Lord, that they had just learned. They were delighted to receive their new backpacks and school supplies.



## Dear Friends,

The theme of this month's newsletter is education, from preschool to college, from secular to biblical. Education, that is acquiring knowledge, is a powerful tool that can accomplish the impossible without it. Education opens the imagination and produces hope where there was none before. We support education here, even teaching classes ourselves on the Bible, life skills and GED. We want to see our clients properly prepared to face life, have a relationship with our Creator and Savior, find employment, go to the next level of their studies.

**“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.” Proverbs 1:7**

Fear of the Lord is a reverential awe and admiring of the Lord. It is a submissiveness that is foundational for all spiritual knowledge and wisdom. To have knowledge of the world and not the Lord is failure waiting to happen. We encourage and teach for success. And we can all be a part of that by praying for and supporting the Mission, especially now with school supplies. Thank you.

Lynn Antis, Executive Director

